

ERC Synergy Grants

What is it about?

The program is for a team of at least 2, maximum 4 researchers (PIs) of any science disciplines who want to achieve breakthrough discoveries that they would not achieve if they worked alone.

Why you should try the project?

ERC grants enable scientists to be financially independent and create extraordinary conditions for the realization of excellent scientific research that requires interdisciplinary collaboration.

Who can apply?

A group of 2–4 researchers (PIs) of any scientific focus who are able to move the boundaries of state-of-the-art knowledge. ERC grants are open to scientists of all ages and nationalities who are currently living in any country. The host institutions must be in the EU or an associated country. One of the PIs must be listed as „Corresponding PI“ in the application form.

What are the criteria?

There are no specific selection criteria. The team must consist of active scientists with the same quality requirements as individual applicants for ERC grants.

For how long is the grant awarded?

Synergy Grant is usually awarded for 6 years.

How to apply?

All applications must be submitted through the Participant Portal in the same way as for all other ERC / H2020 projects. The deadline will probably be in November 2018.

How big is the grant budget?

You can request a maximum of € 10 million (with a possible start-up increase up to € 4 million). The European Commission pays 100% of all eligible and approved direct and indirect costs

of the project. There is no need for the host institution to co-finance the project. Indirect costs account for 25 % of all direct costs.

What conditions must the host institution meet?

Part of the application must be the „Letter of Commitment“, signed by the Rector of the UK. The host institution must employ the researcher at least for the duration of the project, as defined in the grant agreement. Institutions must have their seat in an EU country or an associated country.

What else is important to keep in mind?

Each PI must:

- spent at least 50 % of his/her work time in an EU country or an associated country
- spent at least 30 % of his/her work time on the ERC project

What are the submission or re-submission rules?

PI may file applications for different ERC calls but only the first application received will be evaluated. This applies to all PIs in the ERC Synergy Grants application. You will find out the result within 11 months from sending the application.

How does the application evaluation work?

The evaluation consists of 3 stages (including interview).

- evaluation of „extended synopsis“, track record and CV
- evaluation of the entire project proposal
- interview



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ERC Starting Grants

What is it about?

It is a program for a researcher, who is 2 to 7 years from the end of doctoral studies (exceptions are possible under certain circumstances - for example maternity leave), has excellent scientific results and an excellent research idea.

Why you should try the project?

ERC grants enable scientists to be financially independent and create extraordinary conditions for their work and building of their own team. If you want to start a world-class scientific career with an international recognition of the highest quality and want to apply your risky but breakthrough research, the ERC Starting Grant is the ideal choice.

Who can apply?

Researcher of any scientific focus that is capable of breaking the boundaries of state-of-the-art knowledge. This must be evident from his/her CV, including sufficient independence from the PhD supervisor. The ERC is open to researchers of all nationalities currently living in any country. The host institution must be in the EU or an associated country.

What are the criteria?

There are no specific selection criteria in addition to quality. You must be an active scientist, between 2 and 7 years from getting your PhD.

For how long is the grant awarded?

Starting Grant is awarded for 5 years.

How to apply?

All applications must be submitted through the Participant Portal in the same way as for all other ERC / H2020 projects. The call is usually open from the beginning of August with the deadline in October.

How big is the grant budget?

You can request a maximum of € 1.5 million (with

a possible increase for covering new equipment up to € 0.5 million). The European Commission pays 100% of all eligible and approved direct and indirect costs of the project. There is no need for the host institution to co-finance the project. Indirect costs account for 25% of all direct costs.

What conditions must the host institution meet?

Part of the application must be the „Letter of Commitment“, signed by the Rector of the CU. The host institution must employ the researcher at least for the duration of the project, as defined in the grant agreement.

What else is important to keep in mind?

PI must:

- spent at least 50% of his/her work time in an EU country or an associated country
- spent at least 50% of his/her work time on the ERC project

What are the submission or re-submission rules?

If your application is evaluated as „B“ in the first stage, you cannot re-submit the application in the following call (next year). If you get „C“ in the first stage of the evaluation, you cannot ask the ERC again for the next two calls. If you have received the „B“ in the second evaluation stage, no restrictions apply to you for re-submission of the grant. You will find out the result within 11 months from sending the application.

How does the application evaluation work?

The evaluation consists of 3 stages (including interview).

- evaluation of „extended synopsis“, track record and CV
- evaluation of the entire project proposal
- interview

ERC Consolidator Grants

What is it about?

It is a program for a researcher, who is 7 to 12 years from the end of doctoral studies (exceptions are possible under certain circumstances), has excellent scientific results as well as research programme.

Why you should try the project?

ERC grants enable scientists to be financially independent and create extraordinary conditions for work that should result in the creation of an independent scientific group. If you can prove that your past results affect your field of science and you want to apply your risky but breakthrough research, this is the ideal choice.

Who can apply?

Researcher of any scientific focus that is capable of breaking the boundaries of state-of-the-art knowledge. This must be documented by, among other things, his/her CV, including outstanding results and eventually by the existence of a seed of an independent scientific group. The ERC is open to researchers of all nationalities. The host institution must be in the EU or an associated country.

What are the criteria?

There are no specific selection criteria in addition to quality. You must be an active scientist, who does not exceed 12 years from getting your PhD.

For how long is the grant awarded?

Consolidator Grant is awarded for 5 years.

How to apply?

All applications must be submitted through the Participant Portal in the same way as for all other ERC / H2020 projects. The call is usually open from the beginning of August with the deadline in February.

How big is the grant budget?

You can request a maximum of € 2 million (with

a possible increase for covering new equipment up to € 0.75 million). The European Commission pays 100% of all eligible and approved direct and indirect costs of the project. There is no need for the host institution to co-finance the project. Indirect costs account for 25% of all direct costs.

What conditions must the host institution meet?

Part of the application must be the „Letter of Commitment“, signed by the Rector of the CU. The host institution must employ the researcher at least for the duration of the project, as defined in the grant agreement.

What else is important to keep in mind?

PI must:

- spent at least 50% of his/her work time in an EU country or an associated country
- spent at least 40% of his/her work time on the ERC project

What are the submission or re-submission rules?

If your application is evaluated as „B“ in the first stage, you cannot re-submit the application in the following call (next year). If you get „C“ in the first stage of the evaluation, you cannot ask the ERC again for the next two calls. If you have received the „B“ in the second evaluation stage, no restrictions apply to you for re-submission of the grant. You will find out the result within 11 months from sending the application.

How does the application evaluation work?

The evaluation consists of 3 stages (including interview).

- evaluation of „extended synopsis“, track record and CV
- evaluation of the entire project proposal
- interview

ERC Advanced Grants

What is it about?

The program is for outstanding researchers who have already achieved worldwide leadership positions.

Why you should try the project?

ERC grants enable scientists to be financially independent and create ideal conditions for concentrating on a major scientific issue with minimal bureaucratic burdens.

Who can apply?

It is expected that the Advanced Grant will be applied by an active researcher who has proved his leading position in the field. The ERC is open to researchers of all nationalities currently living in any country. The host institution must be in the EU or an associated country.

What are the criteria?

There are no specific selection criteria in addition to quality. The applicant must be an outstanding scientist.

For how long is the grant awarded?

Advanced Grant is awarded for 5 years.

How to apply?

All applications must be submitted through the Participant Portal in the same way as for all other ERC / H2020 projects. The call is usually open from May with the deadline in August.

How big is the grant budget?

You can request a maximum of € 2,5 million (with a possible increase for covering new equipment up to € 1 million). The European Commission pays 100% of all eligible and approved direct and indirect costs of the project. There is no need for the host institution to co-finance the project. Indirect costs account for 25% of all direct costs.

What conditions must the host institution meet?

Part of the application must be the „Letter of Commitment“, signed by the Rector of the UK. The host institution must employ the researcher at least for the duration of the project, as defined in the grant agreement. Institutions must have their seat in an EU country or an associated country.

What else is important to keep in mind?

PI must:

- spent at least 50% of his/her work time in an EU country or an associated country
- spent at least 30% of his/her work time on the ERC project

What are the submission or re-submission rules?

If your application is evaluated as „B“ in the first stage, you cannot re-submit the application in the following call (next year). If you get „C“ in the first stage of the evaluation, you cannot ask the ERC again for the next two calls. If you have received the „B“ in the second evaluation stage, no restrictions apply to you for re-submission of the grant. You will find out the result within 11 months from sending the application.

How does the application evaluation work?

The evaluation consists of 2 stages.

- evaluation of „extended synopsis“, track record and CV
- evaluation of the entire project proposal